

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for March 2025

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 11 March 7.30 pm

Cookes' house, 57 Wood Street

Speaker: John Wilson, photos of his trip to Madagascar

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Barry Kempton

Trip List

2025

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
1.3	Winzenberg Hill working bee	John Rhodes	304 9095	F
8.3	Kiriwhakapapa – Mikimiki	Liz & Chris Crowe	021 152 6240 or 021 213 6747	F
15.3	Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi bike trip	Jennifer Pomeroy	027 483 4121	M
22.3	Archaeological site visit and Pounui area walk	Jane & Victor Lenting	021 0257 8799	E
29.3	Taumata Road bike ride	Bruce & Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
5.4	Winzenberg Hill	Bruce Clay	027 237 2080	F

If you wish to go on a trip, please let the organiser know by the Thursday prior.

Trip Gradings

The letters are an indication of how tough it will be.

E **Easy.** Completely flat, no hills, 2 – 3 hours.

M **Moderate fitness.** Some hills, well formed tracks. 4-6 hours walk per day.

F **More fitness.** Steep hills, challenging tracks. May go off tracks. 6 – 8 hours walk per day

Leaders: Please remember if you are unable to lead your trip it is your responsibility to find a replacement leader / trip.

Trip Reports

TAPUTERANGA MARINE RESERVE AND WRIGHT'S HILL SUN 2 FEBRUARY

Combined SWTC / MTC trip

With a forecast for 20 knots from the south and little swell, Tim Walshe of Island Bay Divers emailed that we should be fine to go, and so it proved.

Tim has been running his business on The Parade, a mecca for the diving fraternity, since the 1980s. He kitted us out with flippers, snorkels, and masks and for two, wet suits (John struggled into his own, bought in 1984). Tim then directed us to a sheltered lagoon a few hundred metres down the road, explaining that we were about to go tramping in a sample of what covers 70% of Earth's surface.



Ross, Josh, John, Tim

Taking to the water, we were pleased to cool off to a comfortable temperature. John had a worrying moment when he lost a flipper, but struggled to a rock where Ross came to his rescue.

Josh and Ross saw crayfish. The highlight for John was to explore the undersea forest of brown *Cystophora*, *Carpophyllum* and *Landsburgia* with a carpet of green *Ulva*, with many more fish life than on his two dives here in the 1980s, before this became a marine reserve.



Tim returning to 30% of Earth's surface

After returning the gear to Tim, we lunched in Shorland Park and visited the Island Bay Marine Education Centre Bait House Aquarium, which was full of excited children supervised by a watchful octopus.

We topped off the day with a short walk on Wrights Hill, Karori, where one of the gun pits has been excavated.



The Heritage New Zealand / Pouhere Taonga website (<https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/7543/Wrights%20Hill%20Fortress>) says:

First conceived of in 1934, the enormous costs involved in its construction caused the continuous delay of the project until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 made defence a top priority Designed to combat the threat posed by hostile cruisers carrying 8 and 11-inch armaments, the 9.2-inch battery ... provided cover for the Cook Strait and the Wellington harbour entrance. The battery was conceived of as a three-gun emplacement, complete with magazines, pump chambers, war shelters, engine and plotting rooms and a miniature range building. ... Intensive construction was carried out from 1942 but slowed as the balance of power shifted to favour the Allies from late 1943. The site was completed in a modified form in 1944, and its two guns were first tested in 1946, a year after the end of the war. ... All work on the complex ceased by 1949, and it was officially abandoned in 1957. Much of the equipment was removed in the early 1960s ... The Karori Lions Club began a cleanup of the area and in 1989 it was made a recreation reserve. In 1992 a society was formed to protect and restore the site and it remains an important and recognised part of New Zealand's military history.

Many thanks to Ross for providing transport.
Ross Anderson, Josh Oakley and John Rhodes

MANGATOETOE HUT 16 FEBRUARY

Eight MTC and SWTC members walked up Mangatoetoe Stream to the hut. Photos are at

https://swtc.org.nz/?page_id=1996

John Rhodes

CARTERTON BACK ROADS CYCLING 22 FEBRUARY

It went like this - three tardy SWTC members let me know well beyond the deadline of registering interest, that they wanted to join this ride. By then I had transferred the ride to one that the Carterton Cycling Group could do on Saturday morning, so the three tardy SWTC members joined the CCG – hence twelve people in total. Perfect weather. We headed south-east on a range of shingle and sealed, traffic-free roads, to arrive at the end of Taumata Island and then loop back to Wild Oats café. 35 km and all up took 2 ½ hours. For one SWTC member, all the roads were a new experience and adventure. For another, he was familiar with the area and could identify where he used to go and buy cabbages as a young fella!

Chris Leather



ADVANCE NOTICE:

At 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 7 May, [David Barnes](#), [Kaitohutohu āRohe | Regional Field Advisor Wellington and Wairarapa | Te WhanganuiaTara me Wairarapa Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa Outdoor Access Commission](#) will speak about his work at Masterton Tramping Club. SWTC members are invited.